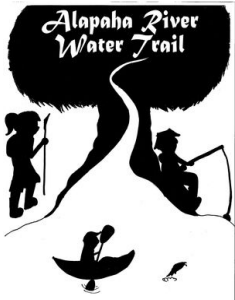


## February 2016 Tannin Times

### Water Trail News



Last chance to mark your calendars for February 27<sup>th</sup> for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail Workshop at Valdosta State University (**VSU**). The WLRWT Committee is actively working on the logo contest, a **"River Art" Exhibit and silent auction**, and speakers at the event will include Tom Baird (Historian), Dennis Price (Geologist) and David Bosch (Hydrologist). You won't want to miss this event!

We are making progress getting information about signage for the Alapaha River Water Trail. Board President John S. Quarterman has been in conversations with Georgia Department of Transportation about exact layout and pricing of the signs to be placed on state roads access points.

### Outing News and Updates



Another perfect outing, this time on the Little River. As we begin the development of the water trail on the Withlacoochee and Little Rivers, we will be exploring various segments. A group of eight had a delightful paddle from GA 122 to the Morven Road. Rain the day before made for a nice current but the river was not out of its banks, the path was clear, and everyone had a fun time.

### Safety Note



The rivers rise quickly and without particular notice after rains. [The Berrien County Sheriff had to rescue some campers](#) near Berrien Beach after the recent rain (the day after we boated on the Little River).

John Rogers (photo left) reported a culvert wash out at Grand Bay on January 23rd. Be sure to check the river gauges before setting out, be aware of your

surroundings, have and file a float plan, and always wear your personal flotation device (PFD).

### ***Community Outreach and Education***

WWALS submitted three short films to the VSU Causes Mini film festival hosted by the Anthropology Department on Saturday January 23. Our entries covered the BIG Little River Paddle Event, the Alapaha River Water Trail and Save our Suwannee. We didn't win a prize but we introduced those at the festival to the rivers and got to see short movies about other issues in the community.

WWALS established a MeetUp site for our events to help get the word out to other paddlers. This site was recommended by new PR committee member Shirley Kokidko. We are happy to have Shirley working on this outreach project.



### ***WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed***

At the quarterly WWALS Board meeting, after consideration of all the information provided by legal counsel, the Board voted that an appeal of Judge Canter's administrative decision would not be pursued. The complexity of the case and the risk of a financial judgement against the organization lead to the decision. WWALS continues to advocate that drilling in sensitive karst regions is not good for our community, the environment nor our members.

Members Chris and Deanna Mericle and Debra Johnson Randall were invited to speak at a Florida Sierra Club event on Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Suwannee River State Park to educate attendees about the risks associated with the proposed Sabal Trail pipeline and to point out misinformation and discrepancies in information that Sabal Trail is providing to FERC, DEP, and other elected officials. WWALS members Alton Burns and Lori McCraney also contributed to the discussion. Suwannee County Commissioner, Clyde Fleming, and Jessica Norfleet, constituent advocate for US Congressman, Ted Yoho, were present and interested. After the meeting the group hiked the pipeline route on the State Park property to see the active sinkholes that Sabal Trail failed to disclose in their survey of that site.

### ***Upcoming Outings and Events***

February 20 8AM	Alapaha River: GA 135 to Berrien Beach, 18.25mi
February 27 1:30PM	Withlacoochee Water Trail Workshop at VSU
March 12-13 all day	Azalea Festival, Drexel Park, Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia
March 20 9AM	Withlacoochee River: Staten Road Bridge to Langdale Park , 5 miles
April 23 8AM	Alapaha River: Hotchkiss to Mayday, 12.7 miles

Check out the [WWALS Calendar](#) for more details.

